

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 075072
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 DHA-02 PPT-01 L-03
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075072

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, CSCE, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET CUSTOMS CONFISCATIONS OF "ANTI-SOVIET" AND
"ZIONIST" MATERIAL

REF: MOSCOW 4276

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATED REFTEL REPORT AND SUGGESTION, AND
WE HAVE DRAFTED PROPOSED NOTICE TO AMERICAN TRAVELLERS TO
USSR (QUOTED PARA 2 THROUGH 5 BELOW) WHICH DEPARTMENT MAY
RPT MAY DISTRIBUTE WITH PRESENT PAMPHLET "TRAVEL TO THE
SOVIET UNION." WE PLAN TO SHOW DRAFT NOTICE TO SOVIET EM-
BASSY, AND STATE THAT CASES DESCRIBED REFTEL MAY COMPEL US
TO DISTRIBUTE SUCH WARNING TO PROSPECTIVE AMERICAN TRAVEL-
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PAGE 02 STATE 075072

TERS TO USSR. IN DRAFTING PAMPHLET WE WANT TO ALERT AMERI-
CANS TO RISK OF DIFFICULTIES, BUT WE DO NOT RPT NOT WANT TO
INSTRUCT AMERICANS NOT TO TAKE RELIGIOUS ITEMS AND LITERA-
TURE TO SOVIET RELATIVES AND FRIENDS. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER
POSTS HAVE ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES IN FOLLOWING DRAFT LANGUAGE
FOR NOTICE:

2. "NOTICE TO AMERICAN TRAVELLERS TO USSR:

3. "IN LATE 1976 AND EARLY 1977 SEVERAL AMERICAN TOURISTS WERE DETAINED BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND SEARCHED AND QUESTIONED BECAUSE THEY POSSESSED ALLEGEDLY "ANTI-SOVIET" OR "ZIONIST" LITERATURE, OR QUANTITIES OF RELIGIOUS OR "ZIONIST" MATERIALS. THE MATERIALS WHICH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES CLAIMED WERE OBJECTIONABLE WERE CONFISCATED, AND THE AMERICAN TOURISTS SUFFERED CONSIDERABLE EMBARRASSMENT, DISCOMFORT AND INCONVENIENCE. SOME WERE FORCED TO LEAVE THE USSR BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES BEFORE THEY COULD COMPLETE THEIR PLANNED TRAVEL IN THE SOVIET UNION.

4. "THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO PERMIT TRAVELLERS TO BRING ONE OR TWO RELIGIOUS ITEMS FOR PERSONAL RELIGIOUS USE INTO THE SOVIET UNION WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE TRAVELLER WILL RETAIN POSSESSION AND TAKE THE ITEMS OUT OF THE USSR UPON DEPARTURE. HOWEVER, ANY AMERICAN TRAVELLERS WISHING TO TAKE QUANTITIES OF RELIGIOUS ITEMS OR MATERIAL INTO THE USSR, OR ANY MATERIAL WHICH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES CAN CONSIDER "ANTI-SOVIET" (I.E., ANYTHING CRITICAL OF THE SOVIET SYSTEM) OR "ZIONIST" SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE RISKS.

5. "ANY AMERICANS DETAINED BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES FOR POSSESSION OF SUCH MATERIALS SHOULD -- AS SHOULD ANY

AMERICANS DETAINED FOR ANY REASON IN THE USSR -- INSIST UPON THEIR RIGHT UNDER ARTICLE 12 OF THE US-USSR CONSULAR CONVENTION TO CONTACT THE US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW OR THE US
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PAGE 03 STATE 075072

CONSULATE IN LENINGRAD. THE MOSCOW PHONE NUMBER OF THE EMBASSY IS 252-00-11 AND THE LENINGRAD PHONE NUMBER OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL IS 72-45-48."
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, ANTISOVIET, LITERATURE, CUSTOMS SEIZURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
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Line Count: 101
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